S-27

29 MAR 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Martin Luther King, Jr.

has volunteered information concerning one aspect of the forthcoming "Poor People's Campaign" to be directed by the Subject, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Although the information provided does not reflect any violation of Federal law or intent to do so, it is transmitted to your Bureau for background use in view of the information contained in your well-received studies of 11 and 12 March 1968 which provided additional information concerning the Subject and his "Campaign."

Source has advised that
of the Virginia Council on Human Relations, recently contacted

advised had been selected by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as a focal point or "Command Center" to support the upcoming Poor People's Campaign headed by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On the evening of 12 March 1968, the source indicates, Rev. Jefferson Rodgers of the Church of the Redeemer, Washington, D.C., spoke before the congregation of the Arlington Unitarian Church on the objectives of the Poor People's Campaign. Among other things, Rev. Rodgers related that some 3,000 people trained in passive demonstrations will be brought to Washington in order to pressure the Congress to enact legislation in the civil rights area. Rodgers asked the congregation to provide such visible support as food, shelter, child care and transportation. Rev. Rodgers

also mentioned the possibility the Potomac bridges might have to be cut off or blockaded and the demonstrations turn to civil disobedience if the demands are not met by the Congress. In response,

stated the Church could not and would not be a party to any unlawful act.

Two members of the Church subsequently contacted to express grave reservations about their church becoming deeply involved in the Poor People's Campaign. Both indicated to that they desired a meeting of the Board to air the issues involved. On the evening of 18 March 1968, the Board of Directors met to discuss their participation. A "blanket endorsement" of the Poor People's Campaign was proposed. The Board split four to four. A second proposal called for the Church's Social Responsibilities Committee to serve as the focal point for receiving and reviewing all requests for support by the Poor People's Campaign, whether from the SCLC or the Virginia Council on Human Relations. The proposal called for the church to examine each request and situation as it developed and to decide on the support to be rendered—or not rendered. This second proposal was approved by a seven to one vote, the sole dissenter being

The first request to be considered under the Board's approved guideline was that requesting the church to act as a storehouse for food supplies. The Board agreed to honor the request.

Because of his deep concern that the Arlington Unitarian Church and its Board might be duped or exploited by elements of the Poor People's Campaign, the source has indicated a willingness to provide additional information as the Campaign develops.

Attached are copies of materials provided the source by the aforementioned

The information contained in this memorandum is for your internal use only and is not to be disseminated outside your Bureau without prior approval of this Agency. Please transmit any correspondence on this matter, Via Liaison, Attention: Director of Security.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

Howard J. Osborn
Director of Security

Attachments as stated

cc: w/o att
Subj's file w/o att
1 w/ att

OS/SRS/_____/pjh - 26 March 1968